Human Rights From Manitoba

A Newsletter Reviewing Human Rights Developments in Manitoba
Volume 1, Number 4. Fall, 1998

In this issue:

COVER STORY

READ about Marla Spence and why she writes poetry.

NOMINATE a media article for a Human Rights Journalism Award.

NEW advocacy training program.

SETTLEMENT of $40,000+, but only $1,500 for complaint.

MEDIATION resolves school racial incident.

TOURING photo exhibit on cultural harmony this October.

DENTAL fee dispute concerns Commission.

EMPLOYERS' seminar September 23

Human Rights From Manitoba is produced by The Manitoba Human Rights Commission.

Editor: Victor Schwartzman.

In Living Colour

by Marla Spence

Who is right, who is wrong?
Who is painted, who is not painted?
Who are the ones that call themselves "White"
Who are the ones that call themselves "Black"
Foolish people filled with fear and shame.
People who are Black and White are the ones with Guilty skin who cry.

I ask you this, what is White? What is Black?
I can not tell you that I was not taught.
I tell you this I'm hurt and ashamed that my "White" friends call themselves White.
Are they my friends? Or are they my enemy?

Why do we need a piece of plastic with a picture of you and me to prove who we are?
Why do we need cards to get discounts? It is not fair.
What are we living in? Are we living in love?

We are living in a world we didn't make
living in a world that's filled with hate
living in a world where children and grown-ups break the rules.
Our world is breaking apart, our hearts are tearing apart.
How much can we take? You all took the gun and shot each other down!

Every time I see a reflection of myself I see a reflection of you and I.
I see color, as you can see and feel I'm not color blind, nothing is Black and White
like it was in the old days. Today we are in Living Color.
I ask you this, "Who are you?" you give me your name, age, and where you live.
I ask you again, "What is your beautiful gifted background?"
You say I'm:
German
Ukrainian
Swedish
Native

Is there a difference? I don't see Black and White, do you? Color Blind?....Well
We are all one
We are all the same
but we are different, that is, in our own individual unique vivid way.

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